

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising:

providing a user terminal+;

transmitting items of information to said user terminal;

~~receiving and storing~~ selecting some of said transmitted items of information, in said user terminal on the basis of information representing ~~determining~~ an access priority for each of said ~~stored~~ selected items of information;

storing said selected items in said user terminal; and

arranging said stored items of information in an order according to said access priorities.

2. (original) The information processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

3. (currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories; and

determining said access priority for each of said stored items of information from said access tendencies.

4. (original) The information processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

5. (currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~determining~~ selecting step includes determining said priority of each of said selected items of information from said priority attribute information, and determining said access priority for each of said selected items of information on the basis of said priorities.

6. (original) The information processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information and said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

7. (currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 6, further comprising:

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories;

determining said priority of each of said stored items of information from said priority attribute information; and

determining said access priority for each of said stored items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

8. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising:

providing a user terminal;

transmitting items of information to said user terminal;

~~receiving and storing~~ selecting some of said transmitted items of information on the basis of information

~~representing in said user terminal; determining~~ an access priority for each of said ~~stored~~ selected items of information; storing said selected items in said user terminal; and deleting at least one of said stored items of information from said user terminal in an order beginning with said item of information having ~~the~~ a lowest access priority.

9. (currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category;

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information in association with each of said items of information;

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories; and

determining said access priority for each of said stored items of information from said access tendencies.

10. (currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information;

wherein said ~~determining~~selecting step includes determining said priority of each of said selected items of information from said priority attribute information, and determining said access priority for each of said selected items of information on the basis of said priorities.

11. (original) The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information and said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

12. (currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 11, further comprising:

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories;

determining said priority of each of said stored items of information from said priority attribute information; and

determining said access priority for each of said stored items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

13. (currently amended) An information receiving apparatus, comprising:

~~a receiver operable to receive items of information transmitted from an information transmitting unit;~~

an information storing unit operable to select and store ~~somesaid~~ items of information transmitted from an information transmitting unit on a basis of information representing an access priority for each of said selected items of information~~received items of information~~; and

an information forming unit operable ~~to determine an access priority for each of said stored items of information, and to~~ arrange each of said stored items of information in an order according to said access priority.

14. (original)The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories, each of said items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category;

said information forming unit being further operable to determine said category of each of said items of information from said category attribute information each time said items of

information are accessed from said information storing unit, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed from said information storage unit, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information from said access tendencies.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said stored items of information is assigned a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said stored items of information including priority attribute information corresponding to said priority;

said information forming unit being further operable to determine said priority of each of said stored items of information ~~stored in said information storing unit~~ from said priority attribute information, and to determine said access priority for each of said stored items of information on the basis of said priorities.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said stored items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said stored items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

said information forming unit being further operable to determine said category of each of said stored items of information from said category attribute information each time said stored items of information are accessed ~~from said information storing unit~~, define a count value for each of said

plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed ~~from said information storing unit~~, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, determine said priority of each of said stored items of information ~~stored in said information storing unit~~ from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said stored items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

17. (currently amended) An information receiving apparatus, comprising:

~~a receiver operable to receive items of information transmitted from an information distribution center;~~

an information storing unit operable to select and store some items of information transmitted from an information distribution center said on a basis of information representing received items of information an access priority for each of said stored items of information; ~~and~~

a controller operable to ~~control said stored items of information, wherein said controller determines an access priority for each of said stored items of information and deletes at least one of said stored items of information from said information storing unit in an order beginning with said stored item of information having the~~ a lowest access priority.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein each of said stored items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories, each of said stored items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category;

said controller being further operable to determine said category of each of said stored items of information from said category attribute information each time said stored items of information are accessed ~~from said information storing unit~~, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed ~~from said information storage unit~~, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, and determine said access priority for each of said stored items of information from said access tendencies.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein each of said stored items of information is assigned a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including priority attribute information corresponding to said priority;

said controller being further operable to determine said priority of each of said stored items of information ~~stored in said information storing unit~~ from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said stored items of information on the basis of said priorities.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein each of said stored items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said stored items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

said controller being further operable to determine said category of each of said stored items of information from said category attribute information each time said stored items

of information are accessed ~~from said information storing unit,~~ define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said stored items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed ~~from said information storing unit,~~ determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, determine said priority of each of said stored items of information ~~stored in said information storing unit~~ from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said stored items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

21-24. (canceled)